THE AERONAUT:

VOL. 4.

No. 55, July 1, 1817.

As our moments of relaxation and our inclinations have permitted us, we have pursued our course through three volumes of these lucubrations. We have gained some wisdom by our past experience; and have been enabled to discover, if not the happy stile proper for works of this nature, at least the prominent difficulties which are to be overcome and the stumbling blocks which ought to be avoided. In the introductory paper to our second

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volume, we made several remarks on satire which it is unnecessary to repeat in this place; - more especially, as this is that province of an essayist which we have rarely ventured on.

In the learned speculations, which essayists sometimes indulge in, it behoves them to be well read, without becoming pedantic or abstruse; instructive without dogmatism; and comprehensive without descending into minutiæ. It is therefore evident, that their task is in this particular one of the lightest - that it is even more difficult to treat a subject well, in the form which we have adopted, than in that of a thorough disquisition; since the whole body of thought, which, in the latter case, is committed to writing, must in the former be digested as completely in the mind - and then analysed without being reduced to a skeleton, and taken in miniature, without being stripped of its dignity.

The morality of an Essayist must be Christian, while he must avoid the remotest semblance of sermonising. In the range of connected subjects, he must never interfere with disputed metaphysical doctrines. Here, we have often found ourselves perplexed, from our ignorance of the principles most approved and last established by the standard authors.

In the tales in which we have endeavoured to preserve the costume adopted by the periodical writers of Great Britain, while we also made it our principal object to inculcate some great moral precept; we never were so far inflated with vanity as to suppose that our inexperienced efforts were worthy of being ranked in the number of apologues, visions &c which have been approved by the sanction of wisdom and held up as models by the hand of taste. Such as they are, however, we hope that they are not altogether unworthy the

perusal of our readers.

Occasionally, we have in some measure introduced an innovation in the common plan of essay-writing, by clothing our ideas in the metrical garb. Our object has been to render that if possible more captivating, which in a plainer garb had lost its capability of keeping attention awake, and the importance and dignity of which had from its natural gravity failed in effecting a suitable impression, if not relieved by lighter materials and adorned by less worthy though more interesting ornaments.

Let us be understood, as speaking of that which we contemplated in our design not as of that which we have executed. This mal-interpretation would be as ungenerous as it would be unjust- and as such has been our tone throughout, an explanation may not be amiss.

Here we may also with propriety, put in a plea for all authors in general and

for ourselves in particular. Their lot is subjected to greater hardships and liable to more peculiar difficulties, than that of any other class of men or species of inventors. From the tribunal before whom they are tried, their only appeal is to posterity, whose reversal of the judgment of their ancestors, comes alas! too late for the unhappy sufferer by their injustice. The author has not even that satisfaction so consoling to the wounded spirit, of complaining of his misfortunes. This were to become the herald of his own praises;- he seeks for sympathy, but he may not find it- his sorrows must wither in his own bosom and canker and blight its peace in their solitary isolation.

The manner in which the productions of our western authors are treated is peculiarly galling to the hopes of genius. It is a striking commentary of the scriptural proverb- "a prophet is without honor in his own country"- but the mode in which

the slight is conveyed, is of all others most mortifying. With the approbation of criticism an aspiring soul is elevated - even with censure it can bear; - for that is a tacit acknowledgment that the author is worth attacking and an indirect compliment to his abilities. A literary censor may be influenced by private animosity or particular opinion; or he has, most probably wrong criteria of taste. Genius is elastic as the palm - it springs up and under the pressure of criticism - But it is that mortifying indifference, that stupid carelessness which too generally characterises our country men, which damps the ardour of all who would climb those steeps

"where fame's proud turrets shine afar"
and blasts the roots of rising excellence in their birth. The Europeans have too much cause to denounce them as a race between men and monkies, while this lethargy continues to absorb their senses. Whoever crosses the Atlantic in the literary way

they welcome with a grin – whenever an American work makes it's appearance, they begin to chatter and mow. Of ourselves we shall say nothing, as regards the degree of countenance which we may have deserved at the hands of our countrymen. When the bards, at the Olympic Games, had sung the praises of others, they left it to other hands to award or refuse them the laurel. Commencing our fourth volume, we have begun with new hopes – that what we have failed in may be hereafter amended, and that what we have done well may be hereafter improved on.

We have lately introduced occasional remarks on the minor productions of the day, which have attained celebrity and distinction. We avoided the style of review, as far as was in our power; but who can forbear in speaking of a work to

give his own opinion of its merits. Here we may be accused of presumption. But it must be allowed, that some degree of arrogance attaches itself to the character of every reviewer, old and young, professedly a casually a censor. And if there be a form in which the draught is more palatable than in any other shape, this should seem to be that one.

We have again to solicit the communications of our correspondents in the form of letters on society, manners &c. we should betray the implied trust, which our aerial prerogatives give us, if we laid bare the mysteries of night-L discovered the sources of all the appearances of the times, which excite the speculation of the inhabitants of Terra Firma. Indeed, we expressly pledged ourselves not to do so, in the first bulletin issued from the flying press. We invite you then

gentlemen and ladies, great and small high and mighty and lowly of estate brilliant or sober, lively or melancholick, when ye lounge away a listless hour in the sanctum of waking, to take up your quills and beguile your own hours, and entertain us and our readers, with chariteable accounts of all things, ~~under~~ within the sphere of your observation.

Again then behold our pendants displayed, and our frail silk extended-

along, along, along the nether sky,
The above, the darkness by,
(Hogg)

we mark the broad wings of Time, hurrying onward in his career & heeding instruction from his iron plumes. Perhaps it were well to hear the words of the preacher- "This is the conclusion of the whole matter" " of making many

books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." The wise find it so, when the volume of life is closed. But fame is not an unholy thing to dream of - while on earth, we must be as of earth. If haply any, in the perusal of our pages, have tasted the pure draught of rational amusement, unmingled with the poison of immorality, they will mark our further progress with pleasure, and wish our sphere of observation extended. And now, in a purer atmosphere, with chaste, unsullied liquid, which once belonged to the mount-ain wreath of the snow capt cliffs, we pledge our readers. Let them, if they please, in rosy wine drink many a pleasant voyage to the

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